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things, and quite conclusively shows that they are dioecious prothalli of Ferns ("An ad *Hymenophylleas* pertinet?"), and considers them perennial. However, he winds up his remarks by saying that he leaves the whole matter in the greatest doubt (!) The form which Swartz referred to *Riccia* was referred to the *Lichenes* by Acharias, and to the *Algæ* by Aghardh.—There can be but little doubt that the plant described in this Journal (vol. VI, p. 188) by Mr. Wolle, as an *Alga*, under the name of *Poterophora Donnellii*, nov. gen. et sp., is also the prothallus of some dioecious fern or filicoid. In structure it too is much like a *Liverwort*; e. g. *Jung. confervifolia*. GOTT. [Almost from the beginning of my acquaintance with the Liverworts, I have been possessed with the fancy that the Ferns are but a higher development of them; also that they (the Liverworts) are but a higher development of the simpler *Algæ*.]

§ 306. **New or Little-known Ferns of the United States. No. 6.**

16. ***Adiantum tenerum***, Swartz.—Distinguished from *Ad. Capillus-Veneris* by the broadly deltoid-ovate outline of the commonly much larger 3—4-pinnate fronds, and especially by having the ultimate pinnules articulated to their petioles, so that after maturity they all fall off, leaving the rachis and all its branches and branchlets bare of foliage. The ultimate pinnules vary from rhomboid to roundish-cuneate; they are usually less lobed than in the *Venus-hair*, and have rather short oblong or somewhat lunate involucre. The credit of the discovery is in great part due to Mrs. Dr. Barnes, of Syracuse, who found in a conservatory living plants which were brought from Florida by Mr. Christian Beh, who discovered them in March, 1877, growing about the opening of a "sink-hole" on the plantation of a Mr. Williams near Ocala. Mrs. Barnes, on seeing the plants, suspected something different from *A. Capillus-Veneris*, and sent me at first an imperfect frond, which I doubtfully referred to *Ad. tenerum*. In a few days she obtained much finer specimens, which she sent me, and herself pointed out the important distinguishing character of the articulation at the base of the pinnæ. It now appears that the same species was noticed on the Halifax river a long time ago by Mr. S. N. Chamberlin, who showed the plants to Miss Mary C. Reynolds in May, 1877. Miss Reynolds collected specimens at that time, and reported the fern as *Ad. Capillus-Veneris* in the BULLETIN of Sept. 1877, (p. 176), where she so well describes the habit of *A. tenerum* that I ought to have recognized the species from what she says about it. I received some of her specimens very lately from Mr. C. E. Faxon. Mr. Davenport has specimens from Ocala, gathered in 1878 by Mr. Shockley; and to-day I have before me a very fine and full set of specimens collected the present month at Ocala by Capt. J. Donnell Smith, who, with his characteristic generosity, has sent me his whole collection of Ocala Ferns to choose from for my herbarium.

Capt. Smith has sent with the *Adiantum*, fine series of specimens of *Asplenium myriophyllum* and *A. firmum*, *Pteris Cretica*, and a *Polypodium* which seems to be so nearly intermediate between *P. pectinatum* and *P. Plumula*, that I cannot at once decide what to do

with it. With these are a few specimens of *A. Trichomanes* with large oblong pinnæ, much as in specimens from Bermuda and tropical America.

17. ***Pteris Cretica*, L.** The Florida plant, as exemplified in Capt. Smith's specimens, is identical with the Mediterranean species, and has the same "firm coriaceous-membranaceous" texture of the pinnæ. This fern has not been gathered in quantity before for several years, Mr. Shockley's specimens being few, and mostly without the rhizoma.

18. ***Pteris serrulata*, L. fil.**—This fern is announced in Mr. Davenport's new "Catalogue of the Davenport Herbarium of North American Ferns." It was discovered near Mobile, Alabama, by Mr. Charles Mohr about a year ago, and first identified by Mr. Davenport. Mr. Mohr has also favored me with specimens, but I preferred to say nothing about the discovery till Mr. Davenport should first make it public. I learn from Professor Lewis R. Gibbes, that a *Pteris* has sowed itself and grown abundantly on the walls of the College at Charleston, South Carolina. It will be very interesting to know whether this is *Pteris Cretica* or *Pteris serrulata*. That a fern may become an introduced plant is proved not only by the instance described by Mr. Davenport at the end of his most valuable and interesting Catalogue, but by the fact reported in the *London Times* that *Platyserium alcinorne* has appeared wild in at least three places in England and Wales, the last time in the Cader Idris Mountains.

19. ***Asplenium ebeneum*, var. *proliferum*.**—Rachis proliferous near the base of the frond. Many tropical *Asplenias* are known to be proliferous, but with the exception as *A. ebenoides* proliferous forms have not been hitherto noticed in the United States. Capt. Smith collected a few specimens of *A. ebeneum* near Ocala; and, looking at them closely, I find as many as three fronds with proliferous buds on the rachis just by the lowest pinnæ. One frond has three such buds, and from them young fronds one or two inches long have been produced. I find one frond, which I collected many years ago in Florida, similarly proliferous, though the young fronds have not shown themselves.

20. ***Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Plumier.** This plant, whether Fern or only Fern-ally, has been found again in Florida, this time near Manatee, and by the indefatigable Dr. Garber. His specimens are much the finest yet gathered in the United States. Dr. Chapman's original discovery was first noticed in the *TORREY CLUB BULLETIN* of January, 1876, which notice was accidentally overlooked by Capt. Smith in his recent paper in the *Botanical Gazette*.

D. C. E.

§ 307. **United States Species of *Lycoperdon*.**—By Chas. H. Peck, A.M. (Read before the Albany Institute, Feb. 4, 1879. Pamphlet, pp. 34.) A revision of the American species of the genus *Lycoperdon* (*Anglicè* "puff-balls") has long been needed, inasmuch as the literature of the subject is somewhat scattered, and in many cases not easily accessible to the student. This work has at length been ably accomplished by Mr. Peck, in the monograph before us. The entire